

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Jeffery Clark on July 13, 2009. (Subsequent interview taken place on July 28, 2009).

3. Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 15 and 16 have been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for implementing Wide Area Centrex (WAC), wherein a corresponding relationship between long number and short number of the WAC users is set and saved, the method comprising:

routing a call a calling user initiates to a soft-switch;

receiving by the soft-switch call information the calling user initiates and determining that the calling user is a WAC user by analyzing and recognizing a calling number;

determining a route by the soft-switch to a called WAC user based on the call information and completing the call;

wherein the WAC is implemented by means trunk equipment, when said calling user is a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) or Public Land Mobile Network (PLMN) user; and

the step of routing the call the calling user initiates to the soft-switch comprises:

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the PSTN or PLMN user dialing an out-group prefix of the WAC or a long number of the called user, and a Local Switch (LS) to which the PSTN or PLMN user belongs routing the call to the soft-switch;

the step of the soft-switch receiving the call information the calling user sends comprises: the soft-switch receiving the out-group prefix or the called long number that the LS sends;

the step of determining the route by the soft-switch to the called user and completing the call comprises: the soft-switch obtaining the data of the Centrex according to the calling number, starting its own analysis of Centrex numbers to determine that the call is an out-group call, and starting the procedure for handling an out-group call in IP Centrex service;

wherein the WAC implemented by means of trunk equipment refers to routing the call the calling user initiates by the LS to which the PSTN or PLMN user belongs to the soft-switch by means of the trunk equipment.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein when said calling WAC user is a Next Generation Network (NGN) user and said called WAC user is a ~~Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) / Public Land Mobile Network (or~~ PLMN) user;

the step of routing the call the calling user initiates to the soft-switch comprises: the NGN user dialing a short number of the called user, and initiating the call to the soft-switch;

the step of receiving by the soft-switch the call information the calling user initiates comprises: the soft-switch receiving the short number of the called user that the NGN user dials;

the step of determining the route by the soft-switch to the called user and completing the call comprises: the soft-switch starting its own analysis of Central Exchange (Centrex) numbers, obtaining the long number of the called user according to the saved long number and short number corresponding relationship, and routing the call to a ~~Local Switch (LS)~~ to which the called user belongs according to the obtained long number and completing the call;

wherein the WAC is implemented by means of trunk equipment refers to routing the call by the soft-switch to the LS to which the called user belongs by means of the trunk equipment.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim ~~3~~ 24, wherein the long number and short number corresponding relationship of the WAC users is saved in a long number and short number corresponding table.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~Claim 4~~ Claim 25, wherein the long number and short number corresponding relationship of the WAC users is saved in a long number and short number corresponding table.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim ~~3-24~~, further comprising: the switches belonging to the same WAC service group determining the short number prefix and the out-group prefix of the WAC group through negotiation.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~Claim 4~~ Claim 25, further

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comprising: the switches belonging to the same WAC service group determining the short number prefix and the out-group prefix of the WAC group through negotiation.

4. Claims 24-27 are newly added.

24. (New) The method according to Claim 1, wherein when the PSTN or PLMN user dialing the out-group prefix of the WAC, the step of routing the call the calling user initiates to the soft-switch further comprises:

the LS to which the PSTN or PLMN user belongs routing the call to the soft-switch after the LS determining through detection that the out-group prefix is the out-group call prefix of the WAC; and before starting the procedure for handling the out-group call in IP Centrex service, the method further comprises:

deleting the out-group prefix.

25. (New) The method according to Claim 1, wherein when the PSTN or PLMN user dialing the long number of the called user, the step of routing the call the calling user initiates to the soft-switch further comprises:

the LS to which the PSTN or PLMN user belongs routing the call to the soft-switch according to a pre-configured routing data.

26. (New) A soft-switch, configured to implement a method comprising:

receiving call information a calling user initiates and determining that the calling user is a Wide Area Centrex (WAC) user by analyzing and recognizing a calling number;

determining a route to a called WAC user based on the call information and

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completing the call;

wherein a corresponding relationship between long number and short number of the WAC users is set and saved, when said calling user is a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) or Public Land Mobile Network (PLMN) user, the soft-switch is further configured to implement the method comprising:

receiving an out-group prefix or a called long number that a Local Switch (LS) to which the PSTN or PLMN user belongs sends;

obtaining the data of the Centrex according to the calling number, starting the soft-switch's own analysis of Centrex numbers to determine that the call is an out-group call, and starting the procedure for handling an out-group call in IP Centrex service.

27. (New) The soft-switch according to Claim 26, wherein when the soft-switch receives the out-group prefix that the LS to which the PSTN or PLMN user belongs sends, the soft-switch is further configured to implement the method comprising: deleting the out-group prefix before starting the procedure for handling the out-group call in IP Centrex service.

4. Claims 3,4 and 17-23 have been cancelled.

CONCLUSION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PHUNG-HOANG J. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)270-1949. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday, 8:30AM - 5:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz can be reached on 571 272 7499. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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